

To Whom It May Concern,

Our names are Leyte L. Jefferson and Jaccorbeau M. Terrone, and we're a disabled married couple from Waterbury. We do our best to vote in each and every election, but, to be honest, our respective disabilities often make that difficult in one way or another.

To wit: The reason why neither of us are testifying in person through Zoom today is that we both have appointments with doctors today. And the thing is? We're not the only people in this situation. In our apartment building alone, there are one hundred fifty apartments with elderly and disabled residents who need and deserve accommodations when it comes to participation in our democracy, and that is one of the things we wish to discuss.

Expanding Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) beyond the DMV to other state agencies is just good sense. We all need to use these agencies, and why not save us all a few incalculably valuable steps? We'll be brutally honest with you: There are days -- many days -- when we simply cannot make more than one or two stops outside our home, and then must rest indoors for days afterward.

Again, we are not the only ones. Shouldn't voting be made as simple and -- literally -- painless as possible? If you cannot simplify the processes through which we receive our health care and benefits, then, please, simplify the processes through which we can vote.

More: SB1017, which would make the absentee ballot drop boxes we were given for the 2020 election permanent, would be a godsend. Being able to go to the box at any time, knowing it was secure, knowing my vote would be counted even if I could not get it to the clerk's office -- that was balm to my soul, and should be available for *every* election.

Finally, and not directly related to the rights of the elderly and disabled but still *vastly* important, we would like to take the time to advocate for the other part of HB6578: Restoring voting rights to parolees.

It's simple: If you take rights away from someone -- anyone -- who has *already* served their full legal sentence* for whatever crime they committed? (Though, of course, a case could be made in these uncertain times for the crimes of treason and insurrection...) What you're saying is that "no, actually, *this* person is no longer an American citizen. They're a lower class than the rest of us, and can safely be trampled upon."

You are, in short, creating a caste system, and you are worth precisely as much approbation as it sounds like.

You shouldn't give parolees their rights back -- you should *stop stripping them away*.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Leyte L. Jefferson & Jaccorbeau M. Terrone